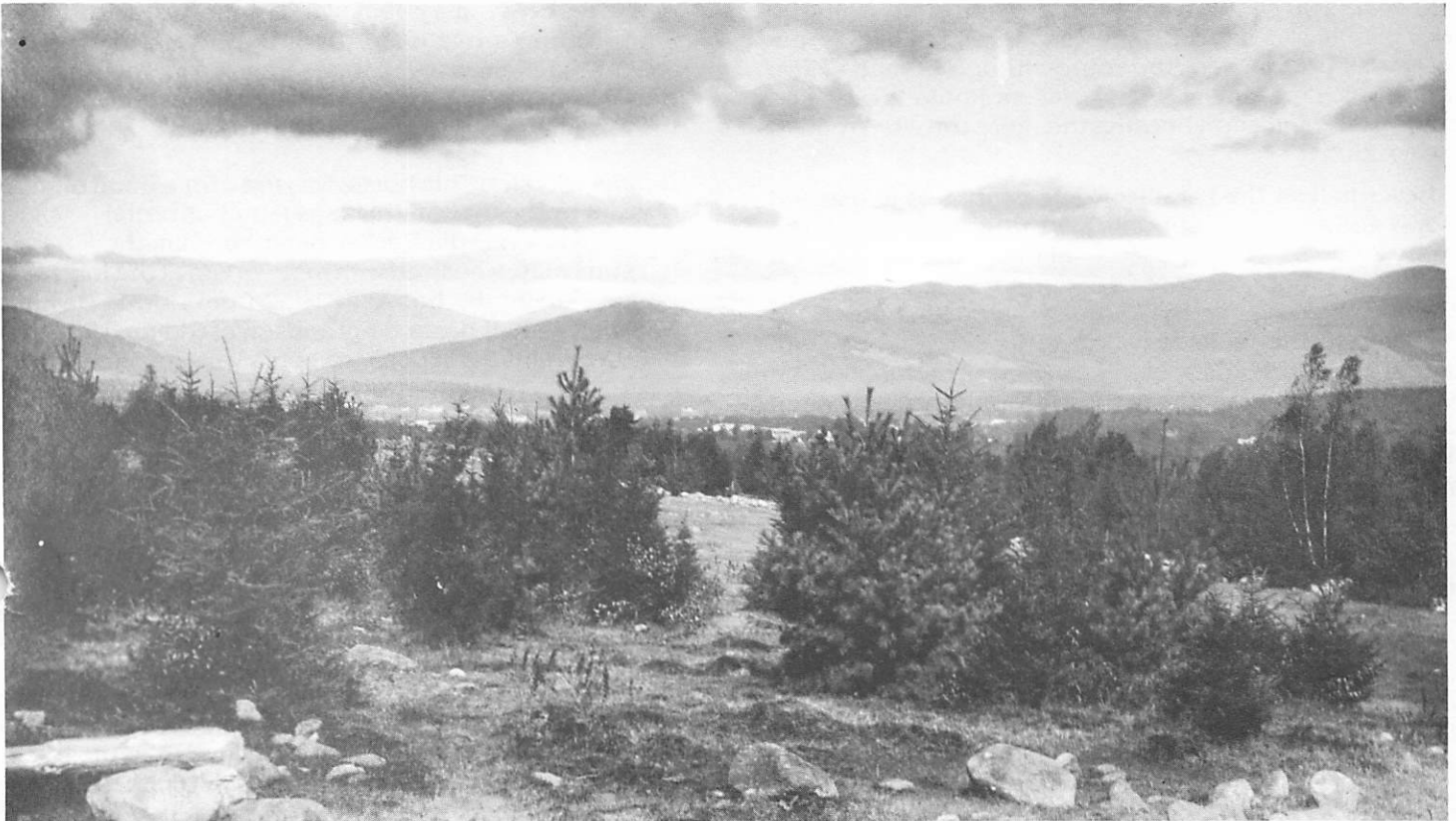


The Bethel Courier.

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BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Paradise Road, ca. 1900, looking northwest. Hastings Homestead Collection.

PARADISE ROAD: A BRIEF HISTORY

by Margaret Joy Tibbetts

Editor's Note: This history of Paradise Road was originally presented at the May 4th, 1989 monthly meeting. It has been revised and expanded since that presentation.

Sources: The main sources for this study have been the deeds for the properties concerned. In a number of cases, however, the deeds for the very early period are difficult for a non-surveyor since they are in technical terms, often with such references as "from a beech tree to a pile of stones etc." My work in this respect has clear limitations. I have benefitted from the assistance of Stanley Howe and the staff of the Historical Society who located for me various references, furnished copies of the 1858 and 1880 maps and produced copies of census material. The censuses do not always agree with the maps, in which case I have followed the maps; it is evident that the various census takers did not always follow up on those houses in which they found no one at home, etc. There are many discrepancies.

Of great importance has been the tolerance of my friends and neighbors who have told me about their

properties. All have been helpful. I am grateful also for those who shared memories of Paradise with me, especially Florence Coburn Blake, Bertha Cross Foster, Muriel Faudi, and Lillian Coburn Mason; the late Guy Gibbs also helped me a great deal.

The tradition of the Bethel Historical Society in approaching local history through a detailed study of individual streets often illuminates the growth of the town and developments in the local economy; listing each house with current owners serves the purpose of freezing at a certain point the status of sections of Bethel so that future students will have a measure of the town as a whole in the 1980s and 1990s.

I. INTRODUCTION

It is convenient to look at Paradise in three sections — Lower Paradise, Upper Paradise and the Back of the Hill. Each section developed at a different time and along different lines.

From the juncture of Paradise with Broad Street the road rises over 1 1/4 miles to the rocky outcrop tradi-

(continued on page 2)

(Paradise Road, continued from page 1)

tionally called the Pinnacle, 908 feet above sea level. Broad Street is 736 feet above sea level so the climb is steady but not arduous. The descent over the back of the hill begins gradually, but drops suddenly and somewhat more steeply, then levels to a gradual but steady descent to Vernon Street which is 696 feet above sea level. The distance from the Pinnacle to Vernon Street is almost exactly one mile.

The origin of Paradise Road came in 1805 when the County made its road survey between Bethel and Paris. A petition from Eleazer Twitchell argued that the road over the hill would be the shortest route to Paris, and it was so laid out in 1807, known as the Greenwood Road. Going up over the hill was difficult, however, and within a few years there was pressure for the route through Walker's Mills, which was a growing area; the present Route 26 was laid out in 1812 and soon became the more travelled road to the south.

Nevertheless, the Paradise route continued in use and slowly and somewhat sporadically the hill was settled. The name Paradise was not used until the middle of the 19th century. A pamphlet, dated 1866, on the beauties of the Androscoggin Valley by Thomas Starr King refers to Paradise so the name must have been in usage before then. The early deeds speak exclusively of the Greenwood Road, then by the middle of the 19th century deeds often use such references as "past Isaac Cross' home" (today Willard); by the post-Civil War period the deeds increasingly use the term Paradise, either Paradise Street or Paradise Road.

Today Paradise is a popular area. It is exclusively residential, and every day there are many both from the hill and from the village who walk, bicycle, jog or drive by to look at the scenery. The hard-working men and women who cleared the land and struggled with oxen to pull the stumps and build stone walls intended for farms never dreamed that they were laying the groundwork for a popular recreational and living area.

II. LOWER PARADISE

When I was growing up in Bethel in the 1920s and 1930s Paradise was thought of mainly as the pleasant area off Broad Street which was a convenient residential area used by a number of employees of the Bethel Inn and the Gehring Clinic. It was a congenial neighborhood, well kept up and cheerful. The atmosphere of absorption in the Inn and its affairs lasted through World War II after which inevitably older workers retired and the death of Mr. Bingham in 1955 brought major changes.

On the east side of Paradise from Broad Street to the Pinnacle almost all of the land was for many years owned by Gideon Hastings (1821-1905) and his heirs who lived in the present-day James Alger house on Broad Street. Early Broad Street residents had areas behind their houses stretching back up the hill. Gideon Hastings apparently early on added extensively to his original holdings. By the late nineteenth century he and his heirs were selling small lots off from time to time to individuals. The last of his original holdings up the hill were not sold until the 1950s.

A. The East side of Lower Paradise. I begin at the east side of Lower Paradise, the left hand side of the Broad Street end, working up the hill with digressions for Evergreen Road and Eden Lane. On the 1858 map the only landowner marked is G. Hastings with no houses shown. On

the 1878 picture map the present Charles and Caroline Merrill home appears plus three buildings farther up the hill.

Ed and Beth Hitchcock: Gideon Hastings sold this lot to either Isaiah Coburn or his son Howard about 1900. For many years Howard's son, Leslie, who worked at the Inn, lived there with his family until they moved up the Hill shortly before World War II. Leslie Coburn sold to Al and Fanny Baker in 1946, the Van Deusen's bought in 1973, and in 1978 Edward and Beth Hitchcock became the owners.

Albert and Mabel Herrick: From 1920 on this house and lot belonged to Thomas Larue whose shoe repair shop was one of Bethel's most popular and useful local institutions. After Tommy's death in 1946, the house was sold to Joseph Gagnon; in 1953 it was transferred to Arthur and Beryl Morgan. On Arthur's death Gould Academy became the owner and in 1975 sold to the Herrick's.

Dennis Wheeler: This house was used for a good number of years by the Gideon Hastings family as rental property. From 1911 on Lydia Barker ran a boarding house here; her son Philip, who lived with her, worked at the Inn. Philip Barker bought the house in 1932 from Norma Hastings (wife of Marshall Hastings, grandson of Gideon Hastings). In 1941 Philip Barker sold to Louis Van who also bought from Norma Hastings over the next few years a good sized area of land behind the house. In 1947 Louis Van sold to Arthur Garber; in 1948 it was sold to Roger Foster, then in 1951 to Lucia Grant, in 1960 to Charles Heino, in 1966 to Thomas Jeffries, in 1971 to Brian Flynn and in 1982 to Dennis Wheeler.

Charles and Caroline Merrill: This house is in all probability the oldest on Lower Paradise. The Hastings family called it "The Little Place" and this name is used in the deeds. It appears on the 1878 picture map, and seems to have been used as rental property. From 1910 on it was rented to John "Jack" Poole who worked for Dr. and Mrs. Gehring. On occasion his wife Ruth worked at the Inn. In 1929 Norma Hastings, who had been given the house by her father-in-law, sold the house to Jack Poole. After his death, Jack Poole's widow in 1944 sold to Avery and Mary Angevine. In 1957 Charles and Caroline Merrill became owners.

Evergreen Road: The first of the 20th century additions off Paradise Road opened in 1954 reflecting increased local pressure for conveniently located individual housing. Basically the land involved was that which Louis Van had purchased from Norma Hastings plus land which belonged to individual owners of adjacent houses on Paradise and had been purchased from the Hastings family at an earlier date. In the 1920s and 1930s this section had been part of the pasture beyond the Crescent grounds, now the grounds of the Crescent Park School.

On the lower side of Evergreen Road, going away from Paradise.

Sudbury Village is a housing development built in 1976 on former Hastings land plus land from the old Ed Rowe house then owned by Ruth Carver Ames.

Albert and Norma Buck bought their land in 1957 from Sylvanus "Venie" Browne who lived in what is today the David Murphy house. Frank Lowell built the Buck house.

Elvin and Bernice Brown, also built on former "Venie" Browne land; the house was built by Willis Ward in 1956.

Theodore "Ted" and Linda Davis: The first owners, Paul and Phyllis King, bought the land from "Venie" Browne in 1956. They were followed by Glenn and Martha Bangs. Ted and Linda Davis acquired it in 1977.

Margaret Davis: In 1955 Stanley and Margaret Davis bought the land from Avery Angevine. Stanley built the house.

On the upper side of Evergreen Road, going up from Paradise Road.

Mervin and Jesse Fairbanks: This land was bought in 1958 by Edward Daye from Wilbur Myers, son-in-law of "Venie" Browne; Edward Daye sold to Herschel Wing who first lived here. Subsequently, Kenneth and Blanche Connell occupied the house; from 1985 on Mervin and Jesse Fairbanks have been the owners.

Lindley and Polly Wieden: In 1956 Wayne and Jeri Strout bought the land and house from Stanley Davis who had bought the land from Wilbur Myers. The Strouts sold to Louis Van in 1960; in 1975 Thelma Van, Louis' widow, sold to Lindley and Polly Wieden.

Arthur and Louise Lincoln: They bought the land in 1955 from Hortense Chapman (Mrs. Sid) Chapman who lived on Paradise Road. The house was built by Frank Lowell.

Avery and Mary Angevine: The land came from Louis Van in 1955. The house was built by Frank Lowell.

Returning to Paradise Road itself, to continue on the east side above Evergreen Road.

David and Nancy Murphy: In 1929 land from the Gideon Hastings estate was sold by Marshall Hastings to Albert Gibbs. At about this time the old house, formerly owned by Dr. True, was moved from upper Broad St. (the uppermost corner of the lot now occupied by Phillip Chadbourne) to this lot on Paradise. Mary Myers, who lived here for some time, thinks that the only parts of the present house from the True House are the kitchen, the living room and two small upstairs bedrooms. Both Bert Gibbs and the next owner, "Venie" Browne, worked extensively on the house. In 1942 "Venie" Browne bought the house, including extra land to the rear (he had rented it for some years); from "Venie" and Eva Browne, the house went to their daughter, Polly Myers, and from her to her son, David Myers. In 1986, David's widow, Mary Myers sold to David Murphy.

William Caddigan: The lot was sold to Edward N. Robertson in 1876 by Gideon Hastings. It is possible that Ed Robertson himself built the house since he was very capable at any number of tasks. In 1938, his widow, Cora Robertson, sold to Merton "Bertie" Connors who worked at Bethel Inn. Mrs. Connors' parents, Leslie and Susan Cummings, shared the house with them for a number of years. Mr. Cummings also worked at the Inn. In 1986, after the death of Bertie Connors' widow, her daughter, Joan Swallow, sold to William Caddigan.

Property of Estate of Dr. Sidney Schnittke: Originally this was the Fernando Bennett house, built before 1880 on land bought from Gideon Hastings. About 1925 the house became the property of Annie Heath. I can find no deed to her; Annie Heath had been a Bennett so it is very possible that there was family connection, or that she inherited it. Annie Heath rented the house in 1936 to Mabel O'Brien, wife of Pat O'Brien, a bellhop at the Inn, who later bought the house from Annie Heath's estate. In 1955 it was sold to Guy and Rose Bartlett whose heirs sold it in 1976 to Dr. Sidney Schnittke who used it as an office for his Bethel

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

An ongoing project of the Society is the systematic compilation of the town's past by streets and roads. Buildings past and present and their owners are documented by old maps, deeds, photographs, family history, newspaper items, and oral testimony. Our usual plan is to present a history of a particular section of Bethel at a regular meeting of the Society. This often provides a review of all the data that has been collected and frequently results in additional photographs, recollections and items associated with a given area. Much registry of deed work is usually involved as well as a check of probate records.

Following all this preliminary work, an article is written by the presenter which is reviewed by several knowledgeable people prior to publication. We are pleased to present another street history by our trustee chairman Margaret Joy Tibbetts. She has done a remarkable job and is to be congratulated for this fine addition to our understanding of a very interesting section of Bethel.

Jane W. Hosterman

visits until his death in 1991. It is now for sale by Dr. Schnittke's estate.

David Walker and Nancy Babcock: In 1919 Sid Chapman bought this lot from Lavinia Lowe who lived in the next house up the street and who had originally bought from Gideon Hastings. Marie Chapman Brown says that at that time there was a very old house — not the present one — on the lot. In 1958 Sid Chapman's widow, Hortense, sold to Lawrence Kendall, who transferred it to Maurice Kendall in 1964, then it went to John Buck in 1978 and in 1982 to Robert Chapman, Sid Chapman's son. The current owners are David Walker and Nancy Babcock who bought it in 1986 and use the house as rental property.

Jack Bailey and Wendy Bailey-Nutting: The 1910 census shows a laborer, Will Lowe, renting a house on this property which was owned by the Hastings family. In 1926, Lowe's daughter whose name appears with several spellings which approximate Lavinia, bought the house and land. In 1949 she sold to Harold and Annie Nutting. After Annie Nutting died in 1988 her son Russell became owner of the house. Wendy Nutting is his daughter.

Florence Coburn Blake: This is one of the older houses on Paradise. In 1873 Isaiah Coburn, Florence Coburn Blake's grandfather, bought a good sized piece of land from Gideon Hastings, including land on the other side of the road and up the hill. He built this house in which Florence lives today. After Isaiah died, his son Howard inherited the house and from him it came to his daughter, Florence.

Eric and Marilyn Sahlberg: Jennie Coburn, Howard Coburn's wife, sold the lot in 1952 to Arthur Herrick who built the present house. In 1961 it was sold to the Sahlbergs who rented for a number of years but now keep it as their residence.

Richard and Barbara James: Gideon Hastings sold part of this land to a Mrs. McLaughlin who lived for some years during the 19th century on the other side of the street. In

(continued on page 4)

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile	\$3.50
Stationery(package of ten sheets and ten envelopes)	\$2 ea.

Moses Mason House	Bethel Railroad Station
Summer House	Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street"	75¢
"The Family Farm"	75¢
"Made in Bethel"	75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House"	\$1
"Molly Ockett"	\$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill	\$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel)	\$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill	\$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County	\$6.50

Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo)	sm. \$7.50	lg. \$11.50
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Placemats, 4 Season (set of four)	\$7.50
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Books

Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY	\$5
Heywood, HISTORY OF UPTON, MAINE	\$10
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY	
LAKES RAILROAD	\$20
BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES	\$9.50
Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER	\$15.95

N.F. Little, AMERICAN DECORATIVE WALL	
PAINTING 1700-1850	\$9.95

R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK	\$5
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W. B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE	\$19.95
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King, THE WHITE HILLS	\$18
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THE WHITE MOUNTAINS: PLACE & PERCEPTIONS	\$9.95
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Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND	\$29.95
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D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS	\$4
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Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY	\$7.50
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MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC	\$29.95
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Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE	
---	--

BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW	
---	--

ENGLAND Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35	
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Bennett, BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY	\$39.95
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M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD	\$48
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R. Crosby, I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER	\$5
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A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND HIS	
PORTRAITS	\$25

Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES	\$5
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Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD	\$50
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R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE	\$18
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William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890	\$45
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F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS	\$20
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T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$7
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Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$6
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Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$7
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Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$6
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Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,

Moses Mason House	10¢ ea.
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Bethel Historical Society Calendar, 1992	\$7
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Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.

(Paradise Road, continued from page 3)

1880 she sold this land to Ed Rowe who lived on Broad Street for many years.

In 1914 a number of Ed Rowe's heirs took this parcel of land once owned by Mrs. McLaughlin and combined it with part of the original Rowe land and then sold the entire lot to W.J. Upson. Together with Mr. Bingham, Mr. Upson was an original owner of the Bethel Inn. For some years until just after World War I the Bethel Inn had a pig farm at this site where the pigs were well fed on Bethel Inn scraps.

In 1950 Nina Upson, Mr. Upson's widow, sold this large lot to Phil Burns, a local grocer, who sold part off shortly thereafter to Dr. W.H. Boynton who was beginning his practice here. Dr. Boynton had the house built and maintained his office here. In 1959 Dr. Boynton sold to the Coverts who worked at the Andover Satellite Station and in 1967 they sold to Richard James.

Eden Lane: Following closely on the success of Evergreen Road in 1954 was the opening of Eden Lane in 1957. The sale of some of Mrs. Upson's land to Phil Burns in 1950 had opened the way.

Guenther and Barbara Mahler: On the lower side of Eden Lane, moving away from Paradise is the house of Guenther and Barbara Mahler. This house was built in 1976 for Jeanette Tebbets, mother of John Tebbets who lived with his wife, Betty, directly across the street. Dr. Boynton had sold this land to Norman Greig. Leslie and Chris Otten lived here after Mrs. Tebbets and sold to Guenther and Barbara Mahler in 1985.

George and Cheryl Angevine (turning the corner to the left at the end of the cross bar street): The land came from Avery and Mary Angevine, who had bought from Dr. Schnitke in 1986. This was part of the land previously acquired by Norman Greig.

On the upper side of Eden Lane, moving away from Paradise Road are the following:

William and Margaret Cousins: This is also former Upson land. In 1963 Dr. E.L. Brown who had bought the land from Phil Burns, sold the lot to John and Nellie Franciewicz. The house was built for them by Frank Lowell. In 1980 the Franciewicz's sold to Mark and Ruth Boche who sold in 1985 to William and Margaret Cousins.

Frank and Rosalind Chapman: Gardner and Marie Brown bought the lot from Philip Burns in 1957. The house was sold to Frank and Rosalind Chapman in 1977.

Jackie Wiese: Philip Burns sold the land in 1957 to John and Betty Tebbets who had the house built. Later occupants were Richard Penley, Robert and Jacqueline Merrill, and Yvonne and Francine Sylvain; Claus and Jackie Wiese bought it in 1986.

All of the properties on the Cross Street at the end of Evergreen Road came from the above mentioned purchase of land from Mrs. Upson by Phil Burns. In some cases there was an intermediate owner, either Norman Greig or Stanley Brown.

Sumner and Lois Burgess: (directly at the end of Eden Lane on the cross bar). It was purchased in 1958 from Stanley Brown, who had bought the property from Philip Burns.

Ruth Wight: to the right. Stanley Brown bought this lot in 1959 and had the house built. Other occupants have been S.I. Balch, Carolyn Holden and Ruth Wight who acquired it in 1980 from Carolyn Holden O'Brien.

(continued on page 7)



Margaret Davis on the grounds of the Dr. Moses Mason House, 1992.

MEMBER PROFILE

Born on May 4, 1926, in Orange, NJ, Margaret Davis grew up in Maplewood, NJ, and graduated from Columbia High School (NJ) in 1944. She moved to Bethel, Maine in 1944 when her father, Kimball Ames, a widower, married Ruth Carver, a widow. The Ames family had long owned property in Bethel, summering for many years at "Amestead" on Main Street.

Mrs. Davis graduated from Wheelock College in Boston in 1949; that same year she married a Bethel man, Stanley Davis, who died in 1973. She is the mother of five children and grandmother of eleven.

A teacher in SAD #44 for twenty years, Mrs. Davis retired in 1986. She is very active in the West Parish Congregational Church, where she is a member of the Bell Choir, the Chancel Choir, Women's Fellowship, and serves as a Deacon. She is also affiliated with the Bethel Book Group, the Stretch Group, and Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional teacher's organization.

Long a guide and faithful volunteer at the Dr. Moses Mason House, she has served as a Society trustee and a member of the Long Range Planning Committee.

Her hobbies include swimming, gardening, knitting, travel and reading. She resides on Evergreen Road, Bethel, in the house built by her husband in 1955.

ELWIN L. WILSON LETTER

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bethel native Rev. Elwin L. Wilson died this spring at the age of 93. Seventy-three years ago (May 9, 1919) he wrote to his cousin following service in World War I:

"I must write just a line to let you know that I arrived home safely about a week ago after having received my discharge at Camp Devens, Ayer, Mass. It seems wonderful to be at home again after being in the service for two years, and spending eighteen months of that time in France. One never realizes what home is until they are far away for awhile.

I wanted to call on you when I came through Portland,

but my trains made good connections & I wanted to get home as soon as possible.

I have been farming since I got home. Am working quite hard, and enjoying it all very much. Wish you might visit us sometime. You may not be interested in farming, but you might like to spend a few days on one if you had the opportunity.

There is a great "Welcome" for the Bethel boys who were in the service to be held on May 14th. There is to be a large parade, luncheon, entertainment, etc. Governor Milliken and Senator Fernald are expected to be present and speak at the luncheon. Prof. Hanscom, principal of Gould's Academy gives a few words of welcome to "us boys" in behalf of the people of Bethel, and one soldier responds in behalf of the returned soldiers and sailors. The one who has been chosen for this response is — me. I don't like to do it but suppose that I will have to do the best I can and let it go at that.

I have not heard from you for some time — because I haven't written I suppose. Excuse me for not writing sooner this time, because you know what it must mean to be getting home and settled down again.

Please write when you have time, as I am always glad to get your interesting letters. Excuse my poor writing, as it is far past bed time, and I am hurrying."



FAYE TAYLOR MEMORIAL ART SHOW 1992

Shown above are winners in Division I (Grades 1 & 2) who were all students at Crescent Park School. From left to right are Mike Swan, Grade 2, first; Chelsea Marshall, Grade 2, second; Christian Morgan, Grade 1, third. This year's theme was "This Old House." Division II (Grades 3 & 4) winners were Per Sandstrom, Woodstock Elementary, Grade 4, first; Caitlin Gallagher, Woodstock Elementary, Grade 3, second; Forest Fyrberg, Andover Elementary, Grade 4, third; Division III (Grades 5 & 6) Kate Nickerson, Telstar Middle School, Grade 6, first; Adam Williamson, Andover Elementary, Grade 5, second; Jonathan McLean, Andover Elementary, Grade 5, third. Judges were Arla Patch, Sandra Clement and Joan Baker. The show is held annually in May and honors a founder of the Bethel Historical Society, who was also an artist very interested in art for students. Support for prizes comes in part from a donation by the Bethel Savings Bank.

MICROFILM READER/PRINTER ADDED TO RESEARCH ROOM

Thanks to the generous contributions of many members and friends of the Bethel Historical Society, the Eva Bean Research Room now contains a new microfilm reader/printer which will enable researchers to obtain paper copies from the Society's extensive holdings of microfilmed newspapers and documents. Purchase of this equipment was made possible by the following donors: Judy Barker, Bethel; Bessie M. Bennett, Peru; Donald and Katherine Bennett, Newry; Randall H. Bennett, Bethel; Donald and Arlene Brown, Bethel; Arthur L. Burt, Rockville, MD; Ethelyn Caillouet, Bethel; Mary Folsom Champe, North Rumford; G. Helene Decker, Oxford; Carol L. Drown, Salt Lake City, UT; Christopher and Tammora Duncan, Baton Rouge, LA; Marianne Mills Durgin, North Waterford; Jean H. Grover, East Bethel; John and Fumi Head, Bethel; Alice P. Henley, Norway; Barbara H. Honkala, East Bethel; Dick and Jane Hosterman, West Bethel; Stanley R. Howe, Bethel; Helen Varner Judkins, Vero Beach, FL; Royden and Alice Keddy, Gorham; Rebecca P. Kendall, Bethel; Alden and Mabel Kennett, North Bethel; Elizabeth S. Lord, Bethel; Stuart Martin, Rumford Point, E. Marna McGinniss, Bethel; Kay McMillin, Bethel; Evelyn Merrill, Bethel; Nina R. Mollicone, East Bethel; Portia M. Nichols, Mountain View, CA; Richard and Jeannette Pingrey, Selah, WA; Sylvia S. Sebelist, Waterford; Stephen L. Sessions, Norway; Joanne P. Stewart, Portland; Jonathan Stowell, Shirley, MA; Paul W. Taylor, Nashua, NH; Edmond and Sudie Vachon, Bethel; and Mark E. Vail, Salt Lake City, UT. The Society wishes to express its thanks to all who made this important acquisition possible.

UP PARADISE

Once on a February walk
I found a broken maple branch
and saw the tiny dots of bud —
hard, dark and alternate
upon its scaly length.

Its secret, held tightly from me,
I would know —
and so, I brought it home-to-water,
to top-heavy tipping, to catching
Zion's swirling tail
and rushing children.

Almost forgot-so small the buds,
so hard to tell a shrinking or a swelling—
Until this day—this very morning—
only a few, but-small sunbursts
of yellow-green where
last night dark, tight
dots had been.

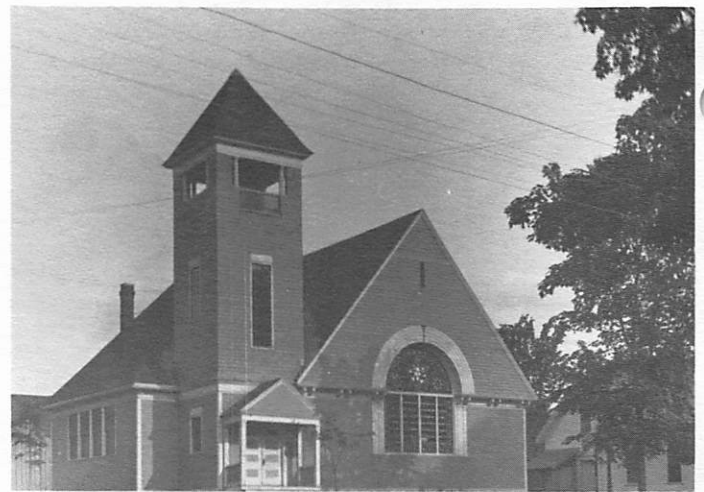
BETH HITCHCOCK

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRY

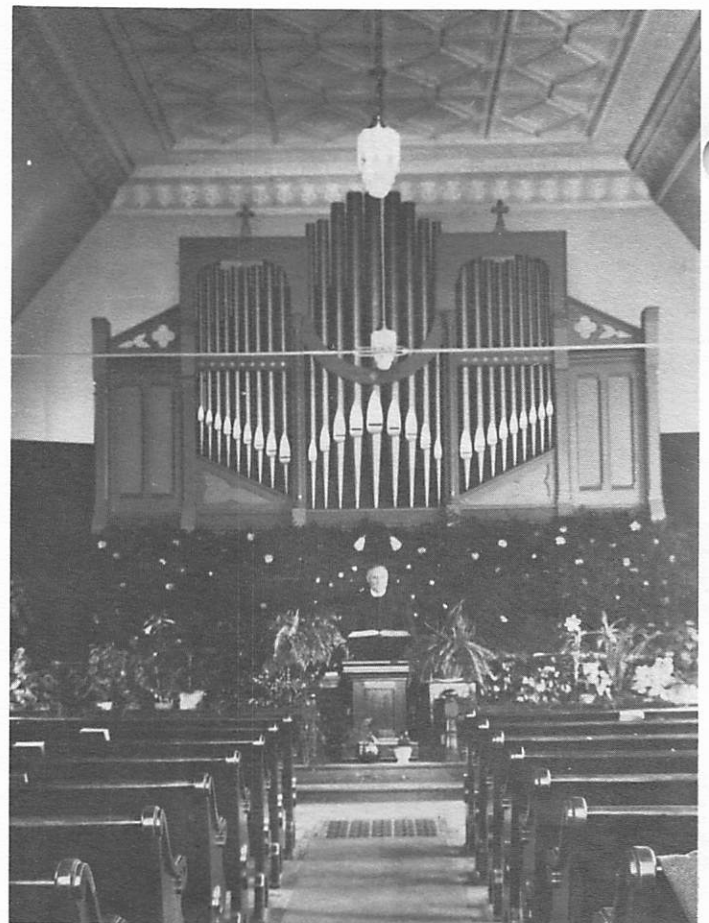
Bev Peterson, 16305 Chandler Blvd., Mishawaka, Indiana 46544 seeks information on the following:

John MORRISON, born 1 May 1819, probably New Brunswick, who married Fanny (Frances) SHIELDS, born about 1823 in Hodgdon, Aroostook Co., ME. Married 13 Mar. 1843 at Houlton, Aroostook Co., ME. John had a brother George b. 24 Mar. 1803 probably New Brunswick who married Sarah M. BUSH. John and Fanny's children were: James W., George H., Harriet M., Samuel R., Emily J.,

BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH 100 YEARS OLD IN 1992



Bethel's Methodist Church on Main Street was begun in 1892 and completed early in the following year. Built to replace an earlier structure on the same site which was destroyed by a cyclone in 1891, the present building was designed by the Auburn architect, Elmer Thomas. Sometime around 1915, the church was raised to allow construction of a basement story. The photo dates to 1909.



The interior of the Methodist Church is shown above in the 1920s, decorated for the annual Easter sermon, which was given by Rev. Chester Oliver, center of photo.

Thomas C., John T., Aretta, Benjamin, Charlotte, Douglas, Iepay, Norvell, Jess T., Anna F., Bertha Etta (Berde), Charles L., Helen and Carey.

(Paradise Road, continued from page 4)

Leading off down the hill to the left are the Eden Lane Condominiums developed in 1988 by Barry Saxe and Avery Angevine. Eden Lane is the upper limit of Lower Paradise.

B. Westside of Lower Paradise: To complete Lower Paradise it is necessary to return to the Broad Street end of Paradise Road.

The west side of Lower Paradise Road is less closely settled; the lower end is somewhat marshy with alders and red osier bushes. The land has been built up on the two lower lots to compensate for the swamp.

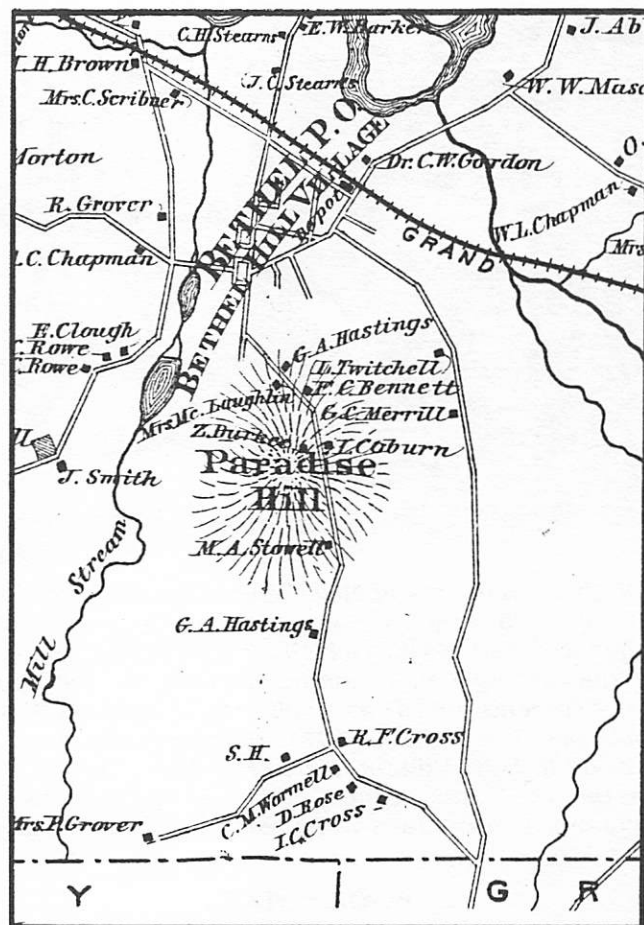
William and Dawn Gross: The first house on the west side, the right hand side of the road going up, is just above Sanding Brook, which goes under the road at this point. This lot is designated in a number of the deeds as the Skating Rink Lot; in the 1930s and 1940s the town skating rink was here.

In the early 19th century the land here on this side of the road was owned by Richard Frye and Nathaniel True, important Broad Street residents. This particular lot was part of the present Saxe lot directly above which was also on land bought from Messrs. Frye and True by the McLaughlins in the mid 19th century. Eventually Celestia Kimball, a later owner, separated this area from the lot above. In 1939 she gave it to the Town for recreational purposes, and it was used as a skating rink. After World War II the Town skating area was moved. In 1961 the Town of Bethel sold the lot to Lloyd McGuire. Successive owners were Charles and Caroline Merrill (1974), Ralph Packard (1979), Harold Clukey (1977) and in 1978 Donald Stecker who transferred the property to his daughter and son-in-law, William and Dawn Gross.

Barry and Joan Saxe: As indicated above, the McLaughlin's had bought this lot from Richard Frye and Nathaniel True sometime before 1860. In the 1860 census William McLaughlin and his family are listed. In maps, documents etc. the spelling varies considerably. Both William McLaughlin and his wife Mary came from Ireland, and according to the census were illiterate. He was a laborer and his land was valued at \$40, his house at \$400. (By contrast, Nathaniel True's house neaby on Broad Street was valued at \$2,300 and his land at \$750). Mrs. McLaughlin began to sell small pieces of land from 1880 on, mainly to Gideon Hastings, but this particular lot went to her daughter, Cassie Gay, who sold it in 1890 to Isaiah Coburn. Eventually his son, Howard Coburn, sold to Charles Lyon, (grandfather of Herbert Lyon). In 1928 Celestia Kimball of Berlin bought the property which she sold to Elmer Bennett in 1944, Pat Bennett, Elmer's widow, lived here until her death in 1986. The property then went to Joan Saxe, Pat Bennett's daughter.

Millie Thomas: The land for the Millie Thomas house was bought from Howard Coburn in 1925 by Orlando George—always called "Junior" George—a bellhop at the Inn. He built the house himself. Florence Coburn Blake says that before World War I there was a beautiful strawberry patch here. In 1960 Mrs. George sold the house to Roger Foster, and his widow sold in 1978 to Merton Brown. In 1982 Millie Thomas became the owner of the property.

Marion Stallwood's house (rented to Larry Fox): In 1875 Isaiah Coburn who had bought the land from Gideon Hastings sold this property to Zib and Ida Durkee, who



Paradise Hill from the ATLAS OF OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE (Philadelphia: Caldwell & Halfpenny, 1880).

lived here until 1929. The next owners were Eugene and Jane Van; after Gene's death in 1961, the house was sold to Emily Stallwood, mother of Marion Stallwood, who taught at Gould. On her mother's death, Marion Stallwood inherited the property. Larry and Lisa Fox and family rent the property today.

Richard Walker (rented to the Gospel church): Pastor and Mrs. Larson lived here, now Pastor and Mrs. Nathan Seckinger. The house was built in 1918 for Ralph and Stella Moore. Ralph Moore was the chef at the Bethel Inn for many years. Stella Moore was the adopted daughter of Zib and Ida Durkee, and the land came from the Durkee's when Stella married in 1918. Richard Walker is Stella's nephew and has rented the property to the Gospel Church for more than ten years.

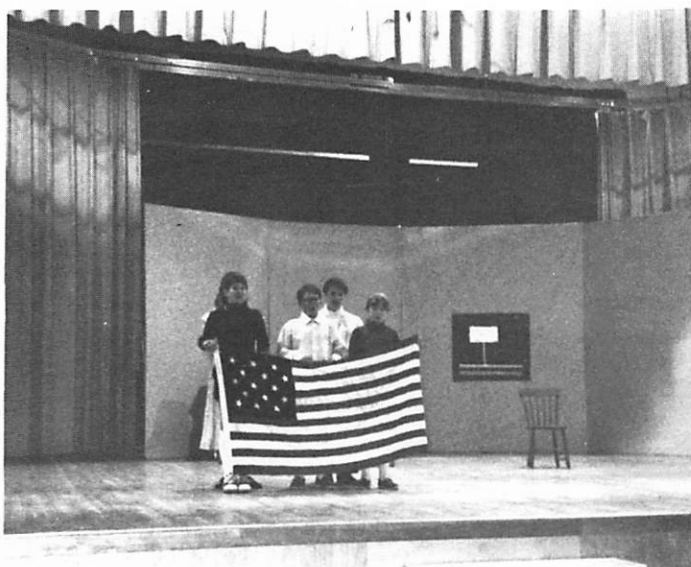
Dorothy Boyce: She bought her land from Ed Vachon and the house was built by Haakon Olson in 1968. The barn was built by Dan Gibbs.

Ed and Sudie Vachon: In 1946 the Vachon's bought their land from Jenny Coburn, the widow of Howard Coburn. Donald Morrill built the house for them in 1962.

(to be continued in the next issue)

IN MEMORIAM

Died, July 16, 1992, Florice Paul, Bethel, Life Member
 Died, July 31, 1992, Ruth Lord, Bethel, Senior Member
 Died, August 4, 1992, William P. O'Connor, West Paris, Senior Member
 Died, August 27, 1992, Nancy Butler, Patron Member



Fifth grade students of Miss Newcomb's Crescent Park School social studies class once again presented a pageant on Bethel's past which they wrote and produced for the Society's May monthly meeting. In the photo above students hold a flag much like one that would have flown over the nation in 1814 while they presented an episode in Bethel during the War of 1812. This activity was the culminating event of a series of presentations and programs sponsored and presented by the Society throughout the school year.

BOOK NOTES

The following publications have recently been added to the Society's Eva Bean Research Room collections. They are available from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Place, Suite 300, Bowie, MD 20716 (include \$3.00 per order).

TIES OF COMMON BLOOD: A HISTORY OF MAINE'S NORTH-EAST BOUNDARY DISPUTE WITH GREAT BRITAIN 1783-1842. By Geraldine Tidd Scott. (Bowie, MD; Heritage Books, 1992. Pp. xviii + 445. Paper. \$32)

An important but neglected era of Maine's nineteenth century history is the subject of Geraldine Tidd Scott's recently issued work, the first definitive history of the northeast boundary dispute as experienced by citizens and officials at the local, state, and provincial levels, both British and American. The author has utilized archival journals, documents, speeches, letter books, and collections of correspondence of participants on both sides of the controversy to chronicle the dispute from its origins to the establishment of an agreed-upon boundary with the Treaty of Washington in 1842. Although no blood was shed, men from Maine and New Brunswick were prepared to fight for control of territory. The 450 page work features significant illustrations and maps, as well as detailed appendices with lists of settlers in the disputed territory, Canadian timber harvesters, federal troops in Aroostook County, the land agent's civil posse, Maine militia muster rolls, New Brunswick commercial establishments, and verified land claims of Aroostook land holders. The book includes a bibliography and a very useful "every-name" index. As many western Maine families helped settle the Aroostook region at about this time, readers of the *Courier* should make note of this important new title.

CUSTOMS AND FASHIONS IN OLD NEW ENGLAND. By Alice Morse Earle. (Bowie, MD; Heritage Books, 1992. Pp. 387. Paper. \$25)

In this reprint of the classic 1893 study of early New England life, Alice Morse Earle delves into many a forgotten aspect of domestic life as it was lived by citizens of two or more centuries ago. Some of these subjects include child life, courtship and marriage customs, domestic service, home interiors, table furnishings, colonial drink and drinkers, travel, taverns, holidays and festivals, sports and diversions, books and book-makers, raiment and vesture, doctors and patients, and funeral and burial customs. The author frequently discusses specific regions of New England and time periods in its history, which adds to the book's value.

THE HISTORY OF MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS, 1633-1785. By Deloraine Pendre Corey. (Bowie, MD; Heritage Books, 1992. 2 Vols. Pp. 870. Paper. \$50)

The two-volume reprint of Corey's 1899 *HISTORY OF MALDEN* provides a detailed study of this important Massachusetts town down through the Revolution. Though there are no genealogies as such, both volumes include a wealth of material about Malden families, all of which is indexed at the end of volume two. Among the Bethel area families that came from Malden was that of Phineas Howard, founder of Howard's Gore, joined in 1843 with a part of Bethel to form the town of Hanover. Extensive footnotes, many pen and ink drawings, and two fold-out maps are also featured in this quality paperback reprint.

VITAL RECORDS OF TISBURY, MASSACHUSETTS TO THE YEAR 1850. By the New England Historic Genealogical Society. (Bowie, MD; Heritage Books, 1992. Pp. 244. Paper. \$19)

The town of Tisbury, Dukes County, was established July 8, 1671, from common land, and the name was then changed from its original "Middletown." The vital records included in this volume give births, marriages, and deaths spanning the years 1666 to 1850. In addition to names and dates, these records include additional information, when known, such as parentage, spouse, occupation, children, and cause of death. A list of sources is provided; when known, specific sources are keyed to the entries in the body of the book.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF GLOUCESTER, CAPE ANN, INCLUDING THE TOWN OF ROCKPORT. By John J. Babson. (Bowie, MD; Heritage Books, 1992 Pp. xii + 610. Paper. \$35)

This reprint of the 1860 history of Gloucester, Massachusetts, gives a very detailed summary of local events down through the Revolutionary War era. The post-war era is covered more briefly in several chapters, including one devoted exclusively to Rockport, which was set off from Gloucester in 1840. Important information about many Gloucester families is scattered through the work, and reference is often made to their descendants who settled elsewhere, including the New Gloucester, Maine, area. The book also contains lists of residents who had settled in Gloucester by 1650, 1700, and later dates, as well as the usual civil lists of various officers. An index completes the volume.

HISTORY OF LITCHFIELD, MAINE, AND AN ACCOUNT OF ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, 1895. By Oliver Barrett Clason. (Bowie, MD; Heritage Books, 1992. 2 vols. Pp. 568. Paper. \$47)

This important reprint of the 1897 *HISTORY OF LITCHFIELD* contains one of the most complete collections of family records on this, or any, Maine town. Several pages are given over to the centennial celebration, but most of the text concerns local families and the town's history. The majority of families are carried through two or three

generations. The historical part covers such topics as the town's civil history, its churches and several biographies of the ministers, its soldiers (especially during the Civil War), its schools, and its doctors. Dozens of photographs highlight the text with views of individuals and town scenes. A new name index makes the voluminous information in this book easy to find. Parts of Litchfield were once or are now part of Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Wales, Webster, Lisbon, and Monmouth, Maine. Many families passed through Litchfield on their way to other places such as Ohio, Wisconsin, and Indiana. This significant reprint will prove invaluable to those researching ancestors located in the Maine counties of Androscoggin, Lincoln, Cumberland, and York.

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(continued from the last issue)

by Leslie E. Davis

The kids had a dog named "Pal" which was about the nicest dog I ever knew. She was part shepard or collie and part Police, and she was very intelligent, with an excellent disposition and pretty. She would, however, occasionally chase automobiles which were going by and this was finally her downfall. One of the neighbors accidentally ran over her one day.

About every night in the summertime as soon as I got home from work, about the first thing I heard was, "Please take us out to Songo," and if repeated times enough usually broke me down and we went. It was a good thing, I guess, as they all learned to swim. I used to go swimming myself quite a bit until I hurt my back about 1935 and had to wear a support for it for two or three years.

Sure, the kids quarreled with each other some while they were growing up as I believe most all kids do.

When Richard and Phyl were 7 or 8 to 8 to 10 or 12 years old we put them in the back seat of the car when we were riding, and sooner or later they would start quarreling over something or nothing and I would give them one warning which stopped it for awhile, but before long it usually started again, so I would stop the car, get out and cut a little switch and they were both satisfied if each got about the same amount of punishment and I tried to be fair about it.

When Kathryn got to be about 7 years old and older, it



Ron Bremer of Salt Lake City, Utah was the featured speaker at a genealogical seminar sponsored by the Society on June 16. Topics discussed included a wide variety of ways to improve genealogical searches, some little-known sources, and a review of some rules of genealogy. A question and answer session followed Mr. Bremer's presentations and those attending had an opportunity to discuss their genealogical problems with him.

was she and Phyl who quarreled and by this time Richard was outgrowing the quarreling age.

Our family had attended the Methodist Church pretty regularly all of our life. Marie and I joined the Methodist Church in Portsmouth, NH during the first year we were married and transferred our membership to Bethel when we moved there.

We have been very busy all of our life, but I believe that nobody should let themselves get so busy that they can't seem to find the time to spend one or two hours of the 168 hours each week on the work of the church.

We dammed up the little brook that ran through the dooryard and made a pond about 1929 or 1930, and enlarged and deepened it in 1946. The first trout that I put in it I caught out of the Big Brook just above the home place in Newry.

Through most of the years that we lived on the Middle Intervale farm, I have planned and gone on a hunting trip up around Umbagog Lake at the upper end in the Sunday Cove or Rapid River territory. Most of the trips were successful in the matter of getting some game and all of them were very enjoyable trips.

(To be continued in the next issue.)

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly publication |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
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..... Life under 55 years \$100 single

..... Life under 55 years \$150 couple

..... Individual preference (any amount over \$5)

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EDITOR'S CORNER

One thing I never have to worry about is material for the COURIER. There is no shortage of articles and items that might be included. My toughest task is to get as much into every issue as I can. Each time an issue is produced, there are a number of items that don't make the final editing and I put them aside to see if they can be included in the next issue. Sometimes we succeed and I am always gratified when that happens. Producing each issue of the COURIER takes much time and planning, but I enjoy every minute of it. Once more I wish to thank everyone who has made such positive comments about the COURIER and for your patience as we labor to see it out each time.

SRH

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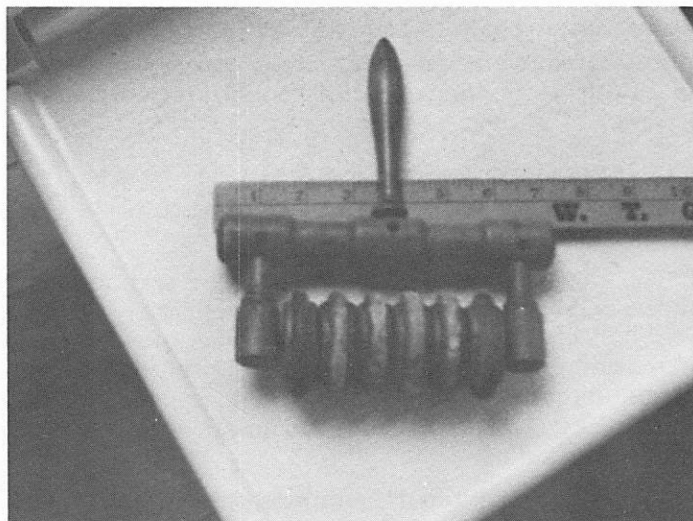


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WHAT'S IT — Donald and Joan Kimball of Rumford have brought the above item to the Society's attention. No one to date has been certain just what this was used for. If you can identify its use or would like to venture a guess, please notify the Society at (207) 824-2908 or P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217-0012. Photo courtesy of Donald and Joan Kimball.

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